E.O. XXXX
SUBJECT: A-37's FOR HONDURAN AIRFORCE
ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: AMBASSAY SAN SALVADOR
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCOS QUARRY HTS PN
SECRET TEGUCIGALPA 3627

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT
2. After meeting with General Alvarez April 29 to discuss status of hijacking incident, he asked to speak privately with me for a moment.
3. More in sorrow than in anger Alvarez noted he had heard reports that Salvadoran pilots being trained in Panama for use of A-37's. Alvarez then repeated by now familiar arguments in support of our helping Honduran airforce (Nicaragua threat, we must not just focus on Salvador, he must worry about morale of his most elite service, and long-term equilibrium between Honduras/Salvadoran force structures). Alvarez said Superior
Military Council still rested its faith in USG policy-lead in Central America and still had confidence in our support; but this trust required responsiveness on our part. Superior Council felt this had been especially lacking in terms of GOE airforce requests.

4. I responded that I would look into matter once again. I then told Alvarez what I understood had happened to the airfield construction funds in the Appropriations Subcommittee on April 28. He looked at me as if I had stabbed him in the back.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: I would like guidance as to what we can say on the additional A-37's requested by Honduras now that we have decided to provide them to Salvador. I think this issue merits a bit of special attention and effort on our part.

NEGROPONTE